

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Craig R. White

Serial No.: 09/977,687

Filed: October 16, 2001

Docket No.: 10011785-1

Title: CENTRALIZED BILLING CREDIT SYSTEM UTILIZING A PREDETERMINED UNIT OF USAGE

**REMARKS**

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed April 18, 2007, in which claims 1-8 and 21-26 were rejected.

With this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 21-26 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-8 and 21-26 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner contends that "the" at lines 3, 4, 5, and 6 lacks proper antecedent basis.

With this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to correct antecedent basis.

Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claim 1 be allowed.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi US Patent No. 6,385,675.

Claims 5, 6, 8, and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi US Patent No. 6,385,675 in view of Lamming et al. US Publication No. 2003/0050963.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that **"the billing system credits the owner of the printer device an amount corresponding to the predetermined unit of usage of the printer device by the user."**

With respect to the Yamaguchi and Lamming references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not disclose a system as claimed in independent claim 1, wherein the billing system credits the owner of the printer device an amount corresponding to the predetermined unit of usage of the printer device by the user.

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In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the Yamaguchi and Lamming references and, therefore, is in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-8 and 21-26 further define patentably distinct claim 1, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and claims 5, 6, 8, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-8 and 21-26 be allowed.

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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-8 and 21-26 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Nathan R. Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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